

Response
Serial No. 10/046,882
Attorney Docket No. 020044

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-20 are amended.
No claims are either cancelled or added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Melo et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,431,772). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Melo et al., does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 1 of the present invention. For example, the reference does not disclose *a step of converting a printing service request of the client using the Internet Printing Protocol into a protocol which allows circumventing the firewall of the print server, and transferring the converted printing service request to the print server according to the access.* Therefore, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Further, *Melo et al.* suffers from the same problem disclosed in the specification of the above-identified application, namely that the client 110 cannot execute a print out to the printer 112 under the firewall 116, since an IPP packet cannot pass due to the protection of the firewall 116 [Fig. 39; page 3, lines 6-9]. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection is solicited.

As claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, they should likewise be allowable in light of the above comments in regard to the §102(e) rejection by nature of their dependency.

Independent claims 8, 15 and 19 distinguish from the cited art for the reasons explained above with respect to claim 1. As claims 9-14, 16-18, and 20 depend from independent claims 8, 15 and 19, respectively, they should likewise be allowable by nature of their dependency.


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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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